

Tale *Feathers*

Sept 2002

Volume 69
Number 7

September Meeting and Speaker

Our Monthly Meeting and Speaker Series will begin anew on Tuesday, **September 17** at 7:30 p.m. at the Creve Coeur Community Center.

The evening's speaker will be our own Dave Pierce-avid birder, board member, and owner of The Wild Bird Center in Creve Coeur. He will present a program called, "Birds, Nests, and Eggs!" It will include an amazing slide show from Dave's personal archive and feature the St. Louis Audubon Society's own nest collection. We guarantee you WILL learn something new about one of the three topics.

Also, meet other society members and discover opportunities for involvement throughout the organization. Open to all, members or not. Refreshments will be available.

From I-270 and Ladue, go east on Ladue, left at the light at New Ballas, go 1/2 mile north to the Creve Coeur Government Center at 300 N. New Ballas. Community Center is in the basement.

Questions, call Mitch Leachman at 314-739-5112.

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St. Louis Audubon Society

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed for the next newsletter mailing party to be held at Wild Bird Center in Creve Coeur, **Sept 27**. The address is 12792 Olive Blvd. The phone number is 314-439-9453. We will meet at 7:30 p.m. Call the store or Anne Bolte (314-832-0938) for directions.

You are Invited to: A Wildlife and Birding Safari to South Africa

October 11-21, 2002

A wildlife safari is the most exciting adventure of a lifetime! Don't miss this one. Join us in "their" spring. We use expert local guides, a relaxed pace, and budget costs. All air fare from the United States is included in group rates.

Ken Newman is perhaps the best known South African bird guide and field guide artist/author. With Ken we visit three private game reserves: Mala Mala adjacent to Kruger National Park; Ndumo; and Hluhluwe. Each has different habitat to ensure the largest number of birds and mammals are found. Three internal flights are included to save travel time between game reserves.

Southern Africa has a bird list that exceeds 900 species and over 100 of these birds are endemic. Many of these endemic species are found in the Cape Town area. An optional four day extension is offered to experience this scenic Cape area. We explore along the coast to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, visit several major nature reserves including Cape Point NR and False Bay to Boulders Beach with its Penguin Colony and spend a full day at the huge West Coast NP. We also visit Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens including its many birds. Included are two pelagic boat trips to historic Robben Island and Duiker Island.

On our last trip we viewed over 320 species of birds and about 45 species of mammals including the Big Five up close and personal!

FOR ITINERARIES OR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

PAUL BAUER at 314-921-3972

ALSO SEE OUR WEB SITE:

www.stlouisaudubon.org

Correction

John Solodar was elected to the St. Louis Audubon Society Board in April 1997, not April of XXXX. The editor regrets the error.

Conservation Report

Sue Gustafson, VP Conservation

I had the pleasure of representing St. Louis Audubon at a meeting last month at the Audubon Missouri office in Columbia in which Dave Bedan, Conservation Chairman for Audubon Missouri, brought together conservation representatives from chapters across the state to review conservation priorities/strategies and to formalize the goals and objectives of our state office's conservation committee. In addition to St. Louis, chapter reps from Kansas City, Columbia, Springfield, and Rolla were in attendance.

As the Audubon name has such broad recognition and support, we'd like to build on that strength and take a leadership role on issues which involve habitats of birds and other wildlife. We will continue to be supportive of other organization's efforts on environmental issues that are consistent with our resources, interests, and the National Audubon Society's campaigns. Some of the priority strategies include: defend and improve Missouri's environmental laws and regulations, advocate sustainable forestry practices on private and public land, collaborate on protection and restoration of native grassland habitat, advocate for conservation and restoration of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, and advocate for environmental education initiatives. The state conservation committee will most likely be renamed the Public Policy Committee, and Audubon Missouri will be hiring a Director of Public Policy to oversee and carry out the goals and objectives of the committee.

I will continue to collaborate with our state office in the conservation activities undertaken by our chapter and am pleased that our state office is committed to developing the mechanisms for chapter participation in the public policy process.

October Picnic at the Shaw Nature Reserve

Think fall thoughts in this hot weather to cool you off: colorful leaves on the Brushcreek Trail, rustling dry grass on the prairie, slanting sunrays on the Wetland Pond, yellow and orange leaves floating on the water, dried stems hanging heavy with seeds.

It's picnic time at the Shaw Nature Reserve's Freund Education Center, **Oct 20, 2002** from 2-7p.m. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided by Mary Dueren. If you prefer a veggie burger, please let us know when you make your reservation. Soda and beer will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Send \$5.00 for a family or \$3.00 for an individual to

Pat McCormick
1338 Eaglebrook Ct.
Ballwin, MO 63021
636-225-0264

Mail checks by Oct 13 and make them payable to St. Louis Audubon Society.

Directions to the Freund Education Center: Follow I-44 to the Gray Summit exit. Turn left at the top of the exit ramp and cross on the overpass. At the stop sign, turn right on the south outer road. At the street before the entrance to the Shaw Nature Reserve turn left. Follow this road down the hill making a right turn across a one lane bridge and then a sharp left turn. Look for a stone gate on the right side of the road. Turn right through the stone gate and follow the gravel road to the Freund Center.

Fall is Coming, and so are the birds

By Jim Malone

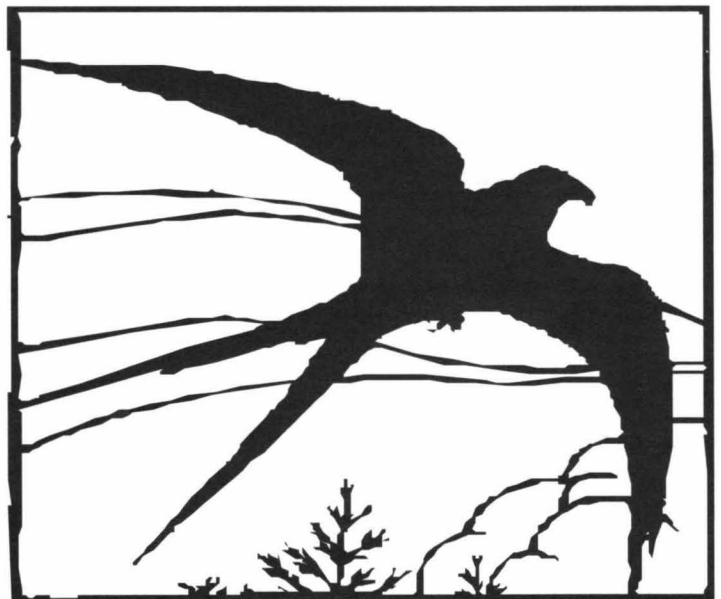
The fall migration is fully underway now, and this is a great time to work on sharpening up your identification skills. In August, our Shorebird Stroll was a very successful event. More than 20 participants saw a great range of birds (70 species) including Willet, lots of herons and egrets, a small variety of ducks, and several other shorebird species. We looked at several challenging shorebirds, including some which had been feeding so much they were almost completely round. This month, we have additional birding events that should capture the breadth of the migration.

September 8 (Sunday) Tower Grove Park, 7:30 AM This location may be the best place in the St. Louis area to experience the passerine migrations. We will be searching for Warblers, Thrushes, Cuckoos, Tanagers, and anything else that might happen by. This is a great chance to study "Confusing Fall Warblers", flycatchers, thrushes, and other migrating passerines. To participate in this walk, take Kingshighway South from I-64 or I-44 to Magnolia. Turn left at Magnolia and follow the North edge of the park to the stoplight. Turn right at the light, and right again on the first road inside the park. Follow this road to the Northwest corner of the park and we will meet at the Gady Bird Garden.

September 21 (Saturday) Carlyle Lake, 7:00 AM. This trip has it all. Great passerine birding at Hazlett State Park (where a Neotropic Cormorant has been in residence for most of the summer), wonderful varieties of waterfowl (including Loons, Grebes, and ducks), a wide variety of gulls, and always something special (like previous trip sightings of Long-tailed Jaeger, Red-necked Phalarope, Sabine's Gulls, and other specialties). This year we will be limiting the number of people on the boat portion of the trip to 24. The trip is filling up fast, but there are still spaces available as of this writing. We will have our lunch on the lake, so remember to bring it and something to drink. There will be a fee associated with this trip to cover the cost of the boats. Although the exact price has not been determined yet, previous trips have cost \$20-\$25 per person. To get to the starting point for this trip, take I-64/70 East from St. Louis across the Poplar Street Bridge into Illinois. Stay on I-64 where the two interstates split, and travel to highway 50 (toward Carlyle). Follow highway 50 to it's junction with highway 127 just North of Carlyle. Turn left at this intersection and meet at the McDonalds. If you are interested in this trip, contact Jim Malone at stlaud@surfbest.net or by phone at (636)536-1119 to reserve a space.

October 12 (Saturday) Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge, 8:00 AM. This trip will be another all day venture. We visit Two Rivers each fall to take advantage of the variety of habitats and the lure of the rivers to migrating birds. On this trip we expect to have good varieties of waterfowl, passerines, some late shorebirds, a nice variety of raptors, and grassland species. There will be some walking on level gravel roads, but much of the trip is birding from the car. To get to the starting point, take highway 100 North from Alton, Illinois. Continue North on 100 out of Grafton, Illinois to the Brussels Ferry. We will meet across highway 100 from the ferry.

Enjoy the fall migration by going on one or more of our birding ventures. Birders of all experience levels are welcome on these trips. We aim to help those who need extra guidance and to be certain that everyone gets to see every bird.



Every Project Has to Start Somewhere (aka Gilbert Lake Project Update)

by Mitch Leachman

I'll get straight to the point on this one. No Prothonotary Warbler (or any other bird) nesting activity was observed during the entire breeding season in any of the dozen nest boxes we monitored around Gilbert Lake at Two Rivers NWR. Now, we do take some solace in that every box was under water for most of the month of May. That is, hopefully the reason they went unoccupied is they were *unavailable* during a key part of the breeding season. On a positive note, we did confirm that Prothonotaries are prevalent in the area and do nest in natural cavities there-at least two nest holes were discovered. Finally, this was the first season for the boxes and we are already putting our heads together, with assistance from refuge staff and experts via The Birdhouse Network, to decide what changes we might make for next year.

That said, many thanks are in order! A great group of new and experienced volunteers helped out in keeping track of the boxes-some even in chest waders and boats (wouldn't recommend the boat again). A big thank you to Diane Albright, Lynne and Jerry Breakstone, Richard Burack, Sue Gustafson, Pat McCormick, and David Pierce. I would also like to give special recognition to three students from Jerseyville High School in Illinois-Natalie Johnson, Keely Turner, and Felicia Yates. They chose to participate entirely on their own and received no class credit of any kind!

Lastly, please mark your calendar for Saturday, October 19 at the Refuge. This will be our one and only clean-up day this fall. In spite of the success we had in March, the spring floods brought a whole new array of junk, and all the wild things are just waiting for us to come by and clean up their home.

BUTTERFLY GARDENING CLASSES

Dennis Bozzay will be teaching two butterfly gardening classes this fall. The first will be on Thursday, September 26, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Pattonville West High School (offered through UMSL). The second will be Thursday, October 3, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. at Fox High School in Arnold (offered through Jefferson College). Please call Dennis if you have any questions ((314) 968-2714).

Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 2500 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2001 - 2002

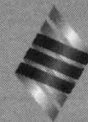
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Attention!

The deadline for the Oct. issue is **Sept 10**. Send inquiries to Anne by E-mail ambolte@swbell.net
phone 314.832.0938
post 6939 Sharp
St. Louis, MO 63116



EMERSON

Special Thanks!

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Audubon is a membership organization dedicated to protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Our members are the source of our volunteer strength and the foundation of our financial support. By becoming a member, you will receive National Audubon Society's magazine as well as the St. Louis Audubon Society newsletter, *Tale Feathers*.

St. Louis Audubon Society Membership Form

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